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LETTER DATED 17 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose a statement of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations on the action of the Security Council with regard to the satellite launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 31 August 1998.

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and the enclosed statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) KIM Chang Guk
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-27335 (E) 170998

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Annex

Statement of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations dated 17 September 1998

On 15 September 1998, the Security Council of the United Nations, at the request of Japan, discussed the satellite launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 31 August 1998 and issued a press statement by the President of the Security Council expressing concern and urging the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea to refrain from a repetition of the act.

The satellite launch is not a matter to be discussed in the Security Council, nor is there any precedent for such a discussion.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has never been informed in advance by any countries, including Japan, which launched satellites in the past.

Judging from this, the mere fact that those countries gathered in the Security Council and slandered the satellite launch of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea can be construed as nothing but a peculiar phenomenon.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations considers the action of the Security Council with regard to our satellite launch as a grave threat to the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and resolutely rejects it.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will continue its full-fledged use of outer space for peaceful purposes, no matter what other countries may say about it.